



STATE OF CONNECTICUT • COUNTY OF TOLLAND
INCORPORATED 1786

TOWN OF ELLINGTON

55 MAIN STREET • P.O. BOX 187
ELLINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06029-0187

BOARD OF FINANCE

REGULAR MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

ROBERT K. PAGANI
Chairman

RICHARD J. CLEARY
ROBERT J. CLEMENTS
VAUGHN E. GERBER
MARK A. JOYSE
BARRY C. PINTO

Board of Finance Members Present: Robert K. Pagani, Chairman, Richard J. Cleary, Robert J. Clements, Vaughn E. Gerber, Mark A. Joyse

Board of Finance Members Absent: Barry C. Pinto

Others Present: Nicholas J. DiCorleto-Finance Officer, Michael Stupinski-Selectman, Peter H. Michaud-DPW Director

Chairman Pagani called the meeting to order at 8:05 pm.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (GERBER) AND PASSED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 2, 2005 AS WRITTEN. CLEARY ABSTAINED.

Financial Statements

The Finance Officer passed out a spread sheet showing the state grants as approved by the state on 8/15/05 versus what the town budgeted. The town is showing a net gain of \$3,319. He also let the Board know that back taxes of \$136,000 were taken in during July and August. He also stated that the Big Y took out a building permit which brought in \$43,000.

New Business

Special Audit – HS Project

Several Selectmen have requested that a special audit be done of the High School project. The Permanent Building Committee is in agreement with this also. Mr. Joyse asked why hire an auditor and not an accounting firm. It was felt that the scope of the audit should be more than just the funds. It should also include what is complete and what still needs to be completed. The Finance Officer has been keeping track of the expenses but he does not get the paperwork needed to know what is anticipated and all the change orders have not been received. An auditor can require these things to be submitted. Mr. Stupinski stated that this is the largest expenditure in the Town's history and he feels an audit is warranted. The Permanent Building Committee and the Selectmen want to know

how much money is left. They want the truth and where the Town stands. They would like someone independent of the town to do it. The Permanent Building Committee cannot engage the auditors, that is left up to the Board of Finance. Mr. Cleary stated his dissatisfaction that the Permanent Building Committee did not know where the funds stood. Mr. Pagani stated that they also could not get the paperwork they had asked for from the contractor.

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (CLEMENTS) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO ENGAGE THE TOWN AUDITORS TO DO AN AUDIT OF THE HIGH SCHOOL PROJECT FOR THE SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM INCLUDING THE CHANGE ORDERS AND TO DETERMINE THE WORK COMPLETED TO DATE, WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH THE COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT. THE COST OF THE AUDIT SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$7,500 AND TO BE COMPLETED IN 45 DAYS.

It was suggested that if the Town does another project of this magnitude, audits should be conducted periodically.

Restoration of Funds for Playing Field Maintenance

The Board of Education received some unexpected funds from the State for reimbursement and has requested that this money be put back to restore the maintenance materials for the playing fields that was cut from the budget. The estimates are \$15,818 for the Board of Education fields and \$25,004 for the Parks and Recreation fields maintenance for a total of \$40,822. The Board of Education is anticipating another \$25,000 that will make up for the Parks & Recreation portion.

MOTION (CLEMENTS) SECONDED (CLEARY) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO RESTORE \$40,288 TO THE FIELD MAINTENANCE BUDGET OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. FOR SUPPLIES TO MAINTAIN THE FIELDS.

Open Space Discussion

Mr. Pagani stated that he asked the First Selectman to take this up with the Board of Selectmen. The last date that the question could have been put on the ballot was September 8 and nothing was done to his knowledge. We don't want to miss the deadline again next year.

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY TO LET THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN KNOW THAT THE BOARD OF FINANCE IS STRONGLY IN FAVOR OF AN INITIATIVE TO START AN OPEN SPACE FUND AND TO REQUEST THAT THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN GIVE THIS THEIR ATTENTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Investment Options – Capital Reserve Fund

Mr. Clements is waiting for feedback from some contacts that he requested information from on this subject. It will remain on the agenda next month.

Trash Collection Fees

The trash collection fee is scheduled to go up \$2 to \$90.

Heating Fuel

Mr. Michaud stated that he and Mr. Littizzio from the Board of Education had been consulting on what to do about the diesel and heating fuel costs. The unleaded gas is locked in until December 2005 at \$1.52/gallon plus 5% earnings tax. As of September 1, 2005 the heating fuel and diesel was \$2.53 with all taxes included. They have been in contact with East River Energy and the prices have been going down each day. They have decided that they will lock in a price for 80,000 gallons at the end of September and then wait until the end of December to do anything else.

Old Business

The chairman stated that an accounting was received from the Crystal Lake Fire Department. They will be at the Monday night Board of Selectmen's meeting to report on this item.

Adjournment

MOTION (CLEARY) SECONDED (JOYSE) AND PASSED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:45 PM.

Submitted by


Lori Smith, Clerk